

**UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS**  
Logistics Operations School  
Marine Corps Service Support Schools  
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(LOC

1407)

**STUDENT OUTLINE**

**LANDING FORCE SUPPORT PARTY (LFSP)**

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

1. Terminal Learning Objective: Given the requirement to conduct throughout operations, the operations order, and the references, conduct landing support operations, and ensure sustainment capacity supports the commander's concept of combat service support. (0402.04.04)

2. Enabling Learning Objective(s):

a. Given the references, commander's guidance, and an operations order, identify planning considerations for landing support operations, per the references. (0402.04.04a)

(1) Identify the mission of the LFSP

(2) Identify the activation responsibilities of the LFSP

(3) Identify the tasks of the Shore Party Team

(4) Identify the mission of the Beach Party Team

(5) Identify the planning considerations for the LFSP during amphibious operations

(f) Identify the planning considerations for the LFSP during MPF operations

2. Given the references, commander's guidance, and an operations order, identify planning considerations for the employment of material handling equipment (MHE), per the references. (0402.04.04b)

## **BODY**

### **1. DEFINITIONS:**

a. LFSP in amphibious operations. "The Landing Force Support Party (LFSP) is a temporary task organization. It is made up of components from the Landing Force (LF) and Navy elements of the Amphibious Task Force (ATF)."

b. LFSP in Maritime Prepositioning Force (MPF) operations. The LFSP is a task organized unit composed primarily of elements from the Combat Service Support Elements (CSSE) augmented by other MAGTF elements.

**2. MISSION.** "The primary mission of the LFSP is to provide initial and limited combat service support for the landing force during ship to shore movement".

**3. FORMATION/ACTIVATION.** The nucleus of the LFSP is formed from the Combat Service Support Element (CSSE). LFSP elements land with the assault waves. If possible, the LFSP is activated a minimum of 30 days prior to embarkation. The LFSP activation order is issued by the CLF. (Appendix A of FMFM 4-3 shows a sample activation order). The activation order should be specific and should include, at a minimum the following:

- a. Mission Statement.
- b. Troop List.
- c. Date of activation for planning.
- d. Date of activation for operations.
- e. Designation of the LFSP commander.
- f. Command and control procedures.
- g. Delegation of authority.
- h. Command relationships.
- i. Reporting instructions.
- j. Administrative instructions.

k. Special instructions.

l. Deactivation instructions.

m. Specifically during MPF operations, the LFSP receives, processes, and distributes Maritime Prepositioning Equipment/Supplies (MPE/S) from the Naval Support Element (NSE) off load organizations and moves personnel and equipment arriving in the Fly In Echelon (FIE). Figure 1 below illustrates the typical organizational structure of the LFSP within the MAGTF.

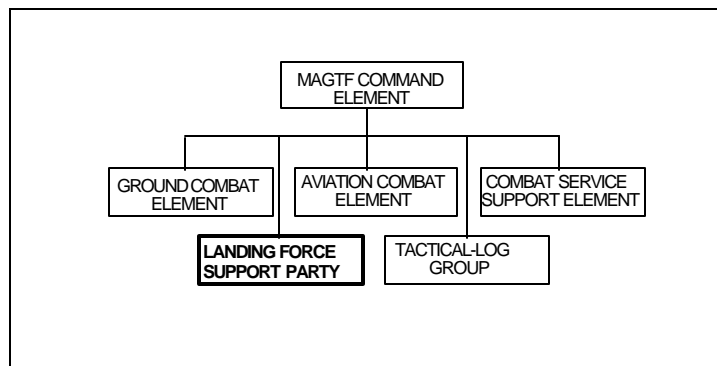


Figure 1. LFSP Relationship Within the MAGTF

#### 4. ORGANIZATIONS:

a. The LFSP is task organized; however, Figure 2 below illustrates a typical internal organization of the LFSP.

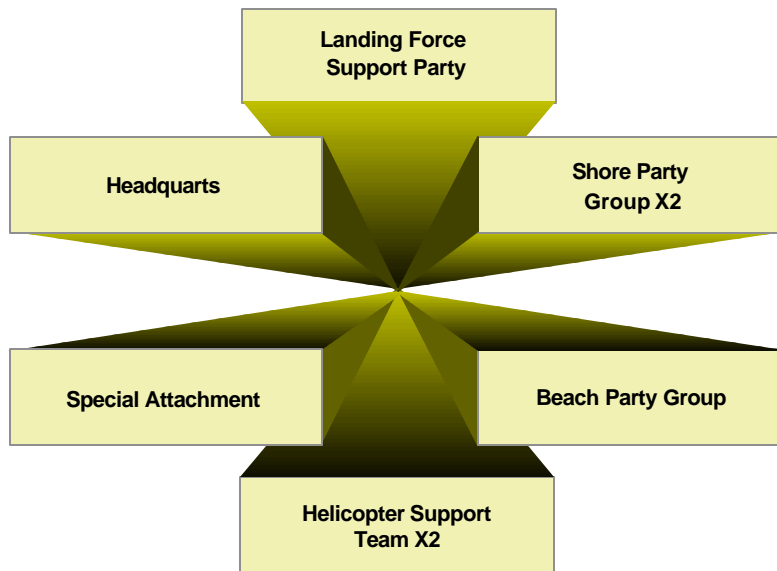


Figure 2 LFSP Organization

b. Headquarters. The LFSP headquarters will normally be formed when there is a requirement for more than one task organized support unit (i.e., one shore party group and one helicopter support group). The headquarters will most likely include a command and administrative section, medical section, military police section, communications section, motor transport/equipment section, and a liaison section.

b. Shore Party Group. Formed from the nucleus of the Landing Support Company, the Shore Party Group Commander controls and coordinates shore party activities within his assigned beaches. The Shore Party Group is normally responsible for supporting a colored beach over which a Regimental Landing Team (RLT) lands. Upon landing, the Shore Party Group Commander assumes control of landing support activities of his/her subordinate shore party teams, and then begins consolidating activities on the group level. This consolidation includes the following:

(1) Redistributing shore party team personnel and equipment when conditions require it.

(2) Establishing shore party group communications and consolidating existing shore party team communications.

(3) Sending liaison personnel to supported unit headquarters.

(4) Coordinating defensive measures.

(5) Coordinating beach party functions with the beach party group (USN) commander.

(6) Submitting reports and records.

c. The organizational components of the Shore Party Group include:

(1) Headquarters. The headquarters section controls and supervises landing support operations within the landing area as set forth in the landing force operation plan

(a) Command Section. The nucleus of the command section is drawn from the landing support company's headquarters. This section handles the shore party group's administrative functions.

(b) Military Police Section. The MP section consists of the commanding officer of the attached MP unit and the assigned administrative and communications personnel. This section coordinates each of the shore party teams' MP operations.

(c) Evacuation Section. This section is composed of personnel from the CSSE's attached medical units and assets from the ACE's helicopter units. This section maintains the records of evacuated personnel and evaluates casualty evacuation procedures for effectiveness.

(d) Communication Section. The communication section provides communications for the shore party group headquarters.

(e) Motor Transport/Equipment Section. This section provides the transportation and equipment requirements needed by the Shore Party Group Headquarters.

(f) Replacement Pool. The replacement pool consists of personnel waiting to be drafted into operation and are referred to as replacement draft units.

(g) Special attachments consist of any attachment that does not have a service or task to perform as part of one of the shore party teams. For example, a special attachment may include liaison personnel from the augmentation units attached to the shore party teams.

c. Shore Party Team Mission. Formed from a Landing Support Platoon, Landing Support Company. The shore party team provides Combat Service Support to a Battalion Landing Team (BLT) across a numbered beach. The organizational components of the shore party team include:

(1) Advance Party. The advanced party is composed of a command section, liaison section, communications section, and beach party section. The advanced party conducts early beach reconnaissance, establishes communications, and marks landing sites and dumps before the remainder of the shore party team lands.

(2) Headquarters. The shore party team headquarters includes:

- (a) Command.
- (b) Evacuation.
- (c) Military police.
- (d) Communications.
- (e) Security.

(3) Shore Platoon. Unload supplies and equipment at the waters edge and moves that material to the dump/staging areas within the BSA.

(4) Service Platoon. The service platoon organizes and operates supply dumps and maintenance salvage areas within the BSA.

(5) Motor Transport/Heavy Equipment Platoon. Provides

heavy equipment and motor transport support to the shore party team's sections and platoons.

d. Shore Party Tasks. The shore party tasks normally accomplished by the Marine units are:

- (1) Marking limits of the beach unloading points.
- (2) Designating and marking appropriate landing sites for helos.
- (3) Locating and establishing multi-class supply dumps, including amphibious assault fuel facilities.
- (4) Assisting units in landing and moving across beaches
- (5) Marking and removing obstacles in the BSA which are hazardous to shore party operations.
- (6) Constructing and maintaining beach lateral and exit roads.
- (7) Establishing and operating information centers and maintaining current situation maps to assist units which have landed.
- (8) Controlling traffic in the BSA
- (9) Maintaining communications with tactical units and tactical-logistical groups (TacLogs) for control purposes.
- (10) Establishing lateral communications between beaches and helicopter landing zones.
- (11) Marking contaminated portions of the BSA and decontaminating those areas that are essential for use.
- (12) Evacuating casualties and prisoners of war.
- (13) Providing emergency maintenance/de-waterproofing facilities.
- (14) Maintaining continuous records of all landed units, equipment, and supplies.

(15) Providing local security and coordinating the BSA defense.

(16) Rearming and refueling aviation assets as required.

## **5. NAVY ELEMENTS OF THE LFSP.**

a. Beach Party Group. The beach party group is the Navy counterpart to the shore party group. The beach party group includes a beach party group headquarters, beach party team(s), a beach support unit, and landing craft air cushion(LCAC) craft landing zone (CLZ) control team(s). The beach party group's mission is to provide the beachmaster, traffic control, causeway lighterage, causeways, ship-to-shore bulk fuel systems, limited construction capabilities, landing craft, and beach salvage capabilities.

(1) Beach Party Team. The beach party team is the basic unit of the beach party and is Navy component of the shore party team. The beach party team consists of the following sections:

- (a) Headquarters.
- (b) Communications Section.
- (c) Traffic Control Section.
- (d) Salvage Section.
- (e) Oceanographic Section.
- (f) Other Sections.

(2) CLZ Control Team. The personnel for the LCAC CLZ control team come from the ship's complement. This team directs the LCAC to a CLZ for unloading, and then directs and controls the craft back to the ship.

(3) Beach Support Unit. The beach support unit is drawn from the amphibious construction battalion of the NBG. This unit consists of a causeway platoon, fuels platoon, and camp support platoon.

(4) Special Attachments. Navy SEALs or the use of Navy



explosive ordnance units are examples of special attachments to the Beach Party Group.

## **6. PLANNING:**

a. Considerations. There are many considerations that affect accomplishment of the landing support mission. These factors are carefully considered during the landing support planning phase. Principal considerations include the following:

- (1) Early, detailed analysis of the objective area.
- (2) Analysis of tactical plans and their landing support requirements.
- (3) Timely and complete training of the task-organized LFSP.
- (4) Detailed planning for organization of BSAs and LZSA.
- (5) Combat loading of each assault ship.
- (6) Employment of the sea echelon concept.
- (7) Establishment of adequate communications between tactical units, control elements, and landing support units.
- (8) Defense requirements of BSAs and landing areas.
- (9) Composition of the assault echelon and assault follow-on echelon.
- (10) Evaluation of enemy activity and installations in the objective area.
- (11) Establishment of the landing force's scheme of maneuver and landing plan.
- (12) Evaluation of beach hydrographic conditions and terrain features inland from the beaches. This also includes HLZs.
- (13) Development of plans for after the seizure of the

objective area.

(14) Quantity and types of supplies to be landed from assault shipping.

(15) Availability of personnel, supplies, and equipment for shore party operations.

(16) Availability of assault shipping.

(17) Development of plans for handling of EPWs.

(18) Development of casualty evacuation and disaster recovery plans.

(19) Identification of coordination requirements with other agencies.

(20) Concept of combat service support.

(21) Organization of combat service support group or units.

b. Documents

(1) LFSP Operation Plan. Provides information and instructions required by the shore party or HST commanders to implement the CLF's decisions and concept of operations for a specific mission. It is normally published as an appendix to Annex D (Logistics/Combat Service Support).

(2) LFSP Appendix. The LFSP Appendix contains control instructions and floating dump instructions, identifies prepositioned emergency supplies, establishes priorities for LFSP equipment, and identifies missions assigned to each major subordinate section. If a complete LFSP Operation Order is used, the LFSP Appendix to Annex D can be very brief. If the LFSP Order is not detailed, the LFSP Appendix must provide all necessary information. See appendix E of FMFM 4-3.

**7. OPERATIONS:**

a. Employment of the LFSP

(1) The responsibility for embarkation and landing of the landing support units rests with the tactical unit being supported.

(2) Buildup of the LFSP parallels the tactical buildup ashore. During MPF operations the LFSP is an element of the advance party that arrives in the Arrival and Assembly Area (AAA) in advance of the main body.

(3) The landing support task organization changes as required, based on the situation and progress of the operation.

b. Embarkation

(1) The primary command group of the LFSP is normally embarked in the same shipping as the GCE's primary command group. This group will normally include:

- (a) The LFSP commander.
- (b) Beach Party Commander.
- (c) The Communications Officer
- (d) S-1
- (e) S-3
- (f) Other selected staff assistants.

(2) The alternate command group is normally embarked on the same shipping as the alternate command group of the GCE. This group will normally consist of:

- (a) The LFSP XO
- (b) S-4
- (c) Selected administrative personnel.

(3) The Commanding Officer, H&S Company, LSBn, normally serves as the headquarters commandant of the LFSP main command post during a MEF MAGTF operation. He is normally embarked with the remaining personnel and equipment of the LFSP headquarters.

(a) Ship's platoons are embarked in each ship of the amphibious task force.

(b) Special attachments to the LFSP are embarked in

available shipping contingent upon their assignment in the landing plan.

c. Amphibious Landing

(1) Prior to H-hour, the LFSP commander and his primary command group will transfer with the tactical-logistics group (TACLOG) to the primary control ship (PCS), if not already embarked on it.

(2) When the situation ashore permits, the LFSP Commander and his primary command group will land in a free boat.

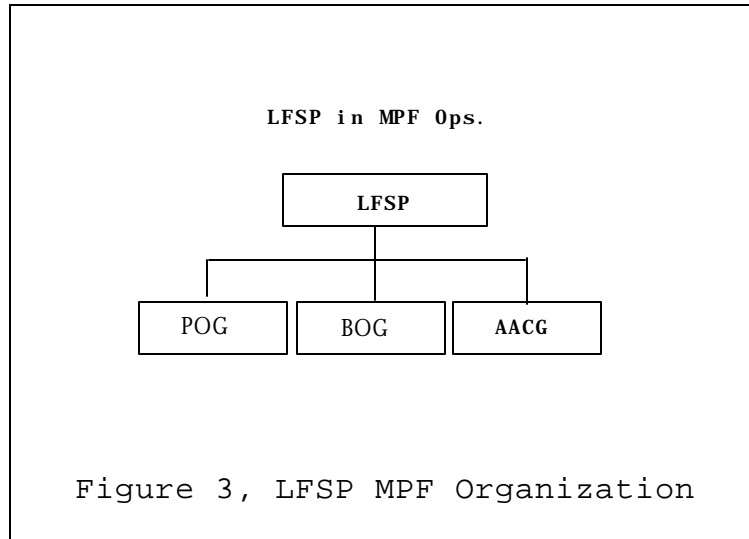
(3) The Executive Officer of the LFSP and his alternate command group will also land in a free boat when the LFSP Commander directs their movement ashore.

(4) The remainder of the LFSP lands as requested by the LFSP Commander.

(5) All units within the LFSP are serialized for embarkation and debarkation.

d. Operations Ashore. A main and alternate command post (CP) are established by the LFSP. The alternate CP is located separately within the BSA. When an alternate CP is activated, the facilities of the nearest shore party group are used. Definite procedures for the LFSP CP operations and its layout should be included in a SOP. LFSP and shore party group CPs function similarly.

e. LFSP in MPF Operations. Controls throughput of personnel and MPE/S at the port, beach and airfield. Figure 3 below illustrates a typical internal organization of the LFSP during MPF operations.



(1) Tasks of the LFSP in MPF Operations.

(a) Controls throughput of MPE/S and personnel throughout the AAA.

(b) Organizes, supervises, and directs the operations of the Beach Operation Group (BOG), Port Operation Group (POG), and Arrival Airfield Control Group (AACG).

(c) Keeps the CSSE's AAOE informed on the status of throughput operations.

(d) MDSS II/manual tracking of MPE/S.

(e) May be required to organize and direct CSSA until arrival of the entire MAGTF CSSE.

**8. PASSING CONTROL FROM THE LFSP TO THE CSSE:** The LFSP is disbanded after the CSSE is ashore and ready to assume responsibility for operations in the beach support area (BSA) and landing zone support area (LZSA). The LFSP remains an independent element until, at the direction of the CLF, it is relieved by the MAGTF's CSSE.

**REFERENCES:**

1. MCWP 4-1, Logistics Operations

2. FMFM 4-3, Landing Support Operaiton
3. MCWP 4-11, Tactical Logistics
4. Joint Pub 3-02.2, Joint Doctrine for Amphibious Embark
5. Joint Pub 3-02, Joint Doctrine for Amhibious Operations